

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 MC-02 SP-01 DEAE-00

SNM-02 AID-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NEA-06 DRC-01 /069 W

----- 077289

R 081455Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3981

S E C R E T ANKARA 03492

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 3 INDEFINITE

TAGS: MASS, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH INQUIRE REGARDING SHIP TRANSFER

REF: STATE 92842

1. SUBJECT MESSAGE RAISES SEVERAL INTERRELATED BUT DISTINCT ISSUES. WE BELIEVE IT IS TIME TO SORT THESE OUT AND PUT THEM IN PERSPECTIVE.

2. IN CONNECTION WITH POPPY PROBLEM, EMBASSY HAS RECOMMENDED UNANNOUNCED SLOW-DOWN IN FY 74 REGULAR MAP AND EDA PROGRAM, BOTH AS FORM OF PRESSURE ON GTO AND TO AVERT CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM THAT MIGHT ENSUE IF USG WERE TO RELEASE LARGE AMOUNTS OF ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY AT TIME WHEN TURKEY APPARENTLY PREPARING RESCIND POPPY BAN. IN ORDER RETAIN FLEXIBILITY, AND GIVEN UNCERTAINTIES IN TIMING INVOLVED IN POPPY PROBLEM, WE RECOMMENDED THAT MEASURES BE FOUND TO COMMIT FULL TURKEY MAP PROGRAM SO AS TO AVOID LOSING IT AT END FY 74, BUT WITHOUT ACTUALLY RELEASING IT TO TURKS.

3. IN MEANTIME, WE LEARNED THAT FY 74 MAP PROGRAM WAS FROZEN FOR GLOBAL REASONS UNRELATED TO TURKEY. LATER

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INDICATIONS, HOWEVER, WERE THAT, AT LEAST IN MINDS OF

PENTAGON ADMINISTRATORS OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM,
FY 74 TURKEY MAP HOLD-UP WAS (OR WAS POTENTIALLY)
RELATED TO EW PROBLEM, AND REPRESENTED ATTEMPT TO ASSIST
U.S. EW NEGOTIATION HERE BY WITHHOLDING MAP.

4. WE DO NOT BELIEVE MAP HOLD-UP HAS PLAYED OR CAN
PLAY BENEFICIAL ROLE WITHIN EW CONTEXT. THIS WOULD APPLY
EQUALLY TO HOLD-UP OF VESSELS SUBJECT REFTEL. WITHHOLDING
OR CAREFULLY DOLING OUT MAP, EDA OR SHIPS SHOULD BE
UNDERSTOOD AS TACTIC RELATED TO POPPY PROBLEM, NOT EW
PROBLEM.

5. SPECIFICALLY IN CASE OF FOUR SHIPS MENTIONED REFTEL,
TURKS HAVE ASKED FOR ALL FOUR AND ARE AWARE THAT OFFERS
COULD BE MADE. THEY HAVE OFFICIALLY INSPECTED
APL 53 AND WE FEEL WILL ACCEPT WHENEVER AN OFFICIAL OFFER
IS MADE. THEY HAVE UNOFFICIALLY LOOKED AT THE LST
(WESTCHESTER COUNTY) IN BREMERTON, AND MINE COUNTER-
MEASURES SHIP (OZARK) IN NORFOLK. THEY ARE INTERESTED
AND WOULD PROBABLY MAKE OFFICIAL INSPECTION AFTER AN OFFICIAL
OFFER IS MADE. THE FLOATING DRYDOCKS HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN.
SINCE WE DO NOT WISH OUR POLICY OF WITH-HOLDING OR SLOWING
DOWN SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO BECOME EXPLICIT WE SUGGEST
OFFER OF LST AND APL 53 BE MADE NOW AND WE HOLD BACK
OFFER OF OZARK AND DRYDOCKS UNTIL LATER. DCM YEGEN COULD
BE TOLD THAT OFFER FOR THESE LATTER TWO SHIPS IS STILL UNDER
REVIEW BY STATE/DOD.
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NNN

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